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SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN VIEWS IN ADVANCE OF THE GYMnich

REF: 8/28/09 EUR/ERA EMAIL

Polchief met September 3 with Klaus Famira, MFA European Correspondent, to discuss the upcoming GYMnich. Famira offered the following views:

-- Arab-Israeli Peace: GYMnich participants will discuss what role the EU can play in supporting U.S.-led efforts toward peace. EU member states fully support the USG's initiatives; EU leaders widely believe that the U.S. and EU are closer in their approach to the issue than they have been in years. The EU recognizes the importance of institution building in the Palestinian territories and plans to provide political, financial, and technical support. EU leaders believe the Palestinians must establish a government committed to reaching a settlement based on a two-state solution, and the Israelis must demonstrate that they remain committed to the peace process.

-- Iran: There are no plans to discuss what measures the EU would take if Iran failed to respond to U.S. and EU diplomatic efforts.

-- Lisbon Treaty: The EU will begin to informally discuss the process of implementing the Lisbon Treaty, on the assumption that the Irish will vote in favor of the treaty in the October 2 referendum.
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